

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 14, and 18 have been amended. In accordance with the Action, Claims 2, 4-5, 19, and 21 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims, and therefore should be deemed allowable.

Claims 1, 3, 14, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Hirabayashi et al. ("Hirabayashi") (U.S. Patent No. 5,680,225). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, and requests allowance thereof in the pending application for the following reasons.

**The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References**

**Claims 1-22 are not anticipated by Hirabayashi**

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under § 102(b) in view of Hirabayashi. Applicants strongly contend that Hirabayashi fails to disclose the features recited in these claims as amended such as carrying out a first, initial image conversion by obtaining, by a first interpolation calculation, image data represented by a number of pixels which is one-half of the predetermined number of pixels, from the original image data represented by the predetermined number of pixels.

Hirabayashi fails to disclose the recited features. Hirabayashi solely discloses an image reduction system that firstly, initially performs an enlargement on an original image, and then thereafter performs  $\frac{1}{2}$  reduction processing. Specifically, Hirabayashi states that "...an original image is subjected to an enlargement processing by a micro-enlarging circuit...by first applying enlargement processing by the magnification varying means to an inputted image..." (see FIG. 2; Abstract; col. 2, lines 21-22).

Therefore, Hirabayashi performs an initial image conversion step of enlarging an input image in strong contrast to the recited feature of carrying out a first, initial image conversion by obtaining, by a first interpolation calculation, image data represented by a number of pixels which is one-half of the predetermined number of pixels, from the original image data represented by the predetermined number of pixels. Applicant strongly contends that an initial image conversion step of enlarging original image data as disclosed by Hirabayashi is significantly distinct from a first, initial image conversion step of obtaining image data represented by  $\frac{1}{2}$  the predetermined number of pixels from original image data as recited.

Therefore, Hirabayashi fails to disclose carrying out a first, initial image conversion by obtaining, by a first interpolation calculation, image data represented by a number of pixels which is one-half of the predetermined number of pixels, from the original image data represented by the predetermined number of pixels as recited making the claimed invention patentably distinct from the cited reference.

#### Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Clint Gerdine (Reg. No. 41,035) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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